

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: November 01, 2010

Received: November 01, 2010

Status: Posted

Posted: November 01, 2010

Tracking No. 80b7cd3e

Comments Due: November 08, 2010

Submission Type: Web

Docket: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0134

Comment submitted by S. Moretti

Submitter Information

General Comment

Re: 10-27-10 EPA Public Meeting on Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Binghamton, NY)

Sally Moretti

201 King Hill Rd.

Starrucca, Pa. 18462

(570)727-3489 sallym@nep.net

My name is Sally Moretti. I live in northeastern Pennsylvania, in the Susquehanna River Basin. I came here today to advocate for riparian buffer zones and wetlands as low cost, high impact water filtration systems.

I have noticed many areas throughout the Susquehanna River Basin where pasture or lawn stretches uninterrupted to waterways. Every area where runoff proceeds directly from pasture or lawn into the waterway becomes a wide open conduit for nutrients and sediment to enter the water. To compound the problem, these same areas often serve as habitat for ground nesting birds so the bird waste gets washed directly into the

waterways with each rainfall. Controlling the bird populations is apt to have varying degrees of success, but an adequate riparian buffer zone, perhaps accompanied by edge-based wetland areas, would forevermore catch the runoff and filter it before it enters the waterway.

EPA could establish riparian buffer zones in areas where they are lacking through a five year, three step approach. Step one: provide targeted educational outreach. Step two: offer encouragement or incentives to property owners along waterways. Since the various programs available now all require massive amounts of paperwork as well as the assistance of various experts, this step would need to address these obstacles by offering programs that are easy to understand and easy to implement. Step three would be to mandate riparian buffer zones throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The buffer zone could consist of an overgrown swath of vegetation, a section of forest or a perennial garden. The beauty of this program is that it is simple to oversee, since the only parameter is that there cannot be lawn or pasture alongside the waterway.

So as you consider testimony about sophisticated sewage filtration plants and other expensive measures, please remember that while those systems have their places the foundation of the solution should be built upon the most economical and effective surface water filtration systems available: riparian buffer zones and wetlands.

Thank you for aggressively addressing the growing problem of dead zones in the Chesapeake Bay and for preserving our natural resources for future generations.